

[00:00:00] **Madoris:** Okay. So the first thing is just general questions like what's your name? Um your age and yeah, like anything that we should know about you? Are you married? Do you have children or anything like that?

[00:00:16] **Hong:** Okay. Yes. Um, my name is Hong – Hong Farina and I'm twenty-nine years old. I'm married. And we don't have kids yet – yet!

[00:00:27] **Madoris:** Okay. And what do you do?

[00:00:29] **Hong:** I'm a sewer. Yeah. I'm working for the company in Kingston. Yeah. So...

[00:00:39] **Madoris:** And um - where are you from?

[00:00:42] **Hong::** I'm from Vietnam. And I only been in the U.S. one and half years.

[00:00:49] **Madoris:** Oooohhh! That's nice! Okay.

And um so tell me a little bit about yourself. How did you get to the U.S.? How was that?

[00:01:00] **Hong:** Yeah, so I met my husband online and then he's moved to Vietnam. He teaching in Vietnam, like four and a half year. So at that time we was dating in Vietnam and then we decided to get married and go to America. So that's why we are - I'm here. Yes.

[00:01:20] **Madoris:** And did you – did he already lived in Kingston? How did you get to Kingston?

[00:01:26] **Hong:** Because my husband from Stone Ridge, you know. And we lived in Red Hook. Yes.

Um, he worked in Kingston also and I work in Kingston also. That's why we said settle down here. Yeah.

[00:01:44] **Madoris:** Okay. That's nice. Um, and so [pause]... Like how was your first - what was your first impression of Kingston? What did you think of - think about it when you saw it?

[00:01:58] **Hong:** Uh, it's very nice for me because - actually I been here in 2019.

Yes because I travel here first in 2019. When I first here I said, "Oh my gosh, it's so different compared to Vietnam!" By the traffic, it different - you know. Everywhere - it cars, you know? And I see like - yeah, very nice. And I love that we have so many hiking trails, like we're able to take a walk and very nice. And the most thing I am impressed - that's the weather.

Oh, I love that - the blue sky and very clear and everything just like so different. It's not too hot compared to the weather in Vietnam. Yeah. So I like it. Um [pause], the supermarket, you know - like everything like so [pause] diversity. That's how I feel when I first in America.

[00:02:53] **Madoris:** Yeah. Um, and then did you live - so you said you lived in Red Hook...

[00:03:00] **Hong:** Yes.

[00:03:00] **Madoris** ...before you lived - did you live somewhere else before Red Hook?

[00:03:03] **Hong:** No no. Because [pause] - yes. Yeah, Red Hook is my first place that I live.

[00:03:12] **Madoris:** Okay. Um and then um... Who – like when you got here, did you find any organizations, any like, um [pause], any institutions that you joined or how did you like get to know people in Kingston?

[00:03:31] **Hong:** Um like - because I only been here for one and a half year and all the support I have now is from my husband's family.

And. He and my - my husband's family is the one who had taken me around in Kingston and showed me like oh where we eat and where we hanging out, you know? And... And then I get a [00:04:00] job. And I meet more people in Kingston and that's how I can have a bigger relationship to people, you know.

[00:04:09] **Madoris:** Is there any place that you really like in Kingston?

[00:04:11] **Hong:** Uh in Kingston? [Pause] If we talk about restaurants, I could say like, I like Five Guys, Red Lobster, and Texas Roadhouse. That's some places that I been. Yes.

[00:04:31] **Madoris:** Okay. And then um who helped you find employment? How did you, how did you get to that job?

[00:04:40] **Hong:** Oh well, this a long story.... Because in Vietnam, I worked at a school and I was a teaching assistant.

I thought that when I moved to America, I may work on the same career or maybe I could do something else. But I [00:05:00] never thought I could back to sewing. Yes.

And then [pause] - because I just got my green card last year. So I moved to the U.S. in like December, 2020, and then it take - it took me like one year for me to finish my green card process you know.

So last year I just stayed at home and wasn't able to work. So my husband bought me a sewing machine for me to like kill time, you know - because I didn't do anything. So I back to sewing and I realized, "Oh wow - I still really love sewing," you know.

And then I start going on Indeed when I got my green card and at that time I need to look for job. And I just going on that.

And then I saw one job about seemstress. And then I just found it, "Oh yeah – this is what I wanna try," you know. And I applied for the job. And [00:06:00] I got a job. And I only been working for that company like two months – yes, two months.

[00:06:07] **Madoris:** How has it been working?

[00:06:09] **Hong:** Cool - that's great. You know - I really love the jobs. I really love the company. They – the company very good you know. They're very supportive and very friendly. I really love my jobs right now. And I'm feeling like happy and grateful that I found a job in America that I really feel I fit in and belong in that company. Yes. That's a very good feeling.

[00:06:32] **Madoris:** That's nice. Um was there anything that was a challenge for you when you came to the U.S.?

[00:06:39] **Hong:** Uh [pause] yes. Like first, the different language, you know.

So, so we speak English all the time. I don't really feel difficult about that too much. But sometimes when [pause], you know like make a phone call or

something like that - sometime I [00:07:00] [pause] I wasn't able to do it by myself and I need my husband help, you know.

And what else [pause] - I miss my family. Yes, that's for sure. And, and food.

Yeah. Yeah, it's so hard you know, like I need to shop online. And the ship like it take a whole week sometime like that. But - that's the only thing, you know. Food.... And missing family.

[00:07:27] **Madoris:** I feel you on that. I'm also an immigrant. So I feel you on that. Missing the home is hard, very hard. Um [pause], has there anything that um - about Kingston that you didn't like or that...

[00:07:43] **Hong:** No, I... I...

[00:07:43] **Madoris:** ...you wish would have been better.

[00:07:46] **Hong:** No. I said I liked everything about the place the Kingston that I live in right now, you know. Yeah. I've been to the city, but I feel like it just somewhere for me to travel. And Kingston where [00:08:00] I would feel like, "Oh yeah, I love to live here." Because - well, not too crowded, you know. We have space here. Yeah.

Because I born in and lived in a city in my country. So here, I appreciate more about the natural - you know, the nature, you know. Yeah. So I love living here.

[00:08:21] **Madoris:** Do you ever miss like the city life?

[00:08:21] **Hong:** No, I don't at all. I'm getting tired with the traffic, you know, and people wear clothes and... Um yeah. Yeah, I really loves living here, you know. Yeah.

[00:08:35] **Madoris:** Um and now going back to um like ideas about like, you know - traditions and culture. Um is there any tradition that you continue to do?

[00:08:46] **Hong:** Oh.... Yeah we do like in Vietnam. We have one holiday that - the New Year. The same with China, China New Year - Chinese New Year. So I still keep doing that [00:09:00]. And my husband and my husband family they do it with me. Also...

[00:09:05] **Madoris:** Is your husband Vietnamese?

[00:09:07] **Hong:** No, he's American, but he lived in Vietnam four and a half years. So he know about our traditions. So he know.

And he even more started when my New Year's coming. He say, "Oh Hong, are you going to do anything? You know - let me know what you want - I help you." And so we're doing that every year? Yeah.

[00:09:27] **Madoris:** So nice. Is there anything that you have to stop doing here or had to give up?

[00:09:34] **Hong:** Uh [pause]. I don't really think so. We still do the same thing like when we live in Vietnam. Yeah.

[00:09:41] **Madoris:** Is there anything American that you have started to do - regular traditions?

[00:09:46] **Hong:** Christmas, for sure. Um Easter. Yeah. That's we don't - I don't do it in Vietnam you know [Madoris laughs]. So that's a few things we do. Yeah.

[00:09:58] **Madoris:** And how do you feel doing those things [00:10:00]? Is it weird, is it kind of like fun?

[00:10:03] **Hong:** No, I don't feel weird. I really enjoy it. I feel it fun you know. Yeah. Yeah, very fun for me.

[00:10:09] **Madoris:** That's nice. Um and then when it comes to your culture, what would you like people to embrace? Or like what would you like people to like know or, or practice about your culture?

[00:10:23] **Hong:** Um.... About my culture, we are very family oriented, you know. We we care about our families and we are uh [pause] I could say like [pause], we very close you know. We could live in the same house and not no problems, you know. We could live like three generations in the same house because we are very family oriented and [pause] we are hardworking. Yes.

What else [00:11:00] I could say um [pause] - we are very big on education. Yes. That's three things I could say about my country.

[00:11:10] **Madoris:** Nice. Um and um - now about Kingston. Do you think Kingston is very welcoming to immigrants? Or um how has your experience being an immigrant in Kingston been?

[00:11:20] **Hong:** Um everything's been very good so far. I haven't experienced any bad, you know, yeah. Friendly, you know because - like I say, I'm here with my husband's family. So I go everywhere with them. So I feel very like welcome right here. Yeah.

[00:11:45] **Madoris:** That's good. Do you have any story or like fun - or any interesting story about when you came here? Anything that you [Hong laughing] went through, something about, you know, being an immigrant in Kingston?

[00:11:59] **Hong:** So.... [00:12:00] My thoughts are in Kingston in 2019. And it was brand new for me. Everything new - I remember when I sat on the car and I looked everything outside. I kept like, "Oh my gosh. Oh my gosh. Oh my gosh."

And I remember one thing very silly - that's the first time when I came inside Sam's Club, you know - everything like massive for me! [Madoris laughs]. Very massive compared to everything we have in Vietnam. Even just a snack that, you know - in Vietnam it's small and here is three or four times bigger.

And I was like that, "Oh my gosh." [Madoris laughs] I even took the photo with that snack. You know - everything like big and big and big, you know. And my first diner meal in America, I couldn't finish them. Because [00:13:00] compared to what we have in my country, it was like okay - yes, very big.

Well, but after living here, I kinda like, "Okay, that's what I eat." And I am able to eat them all. Yeah. [Madoris laughs] [both laugh].

[00:13:15] **Madoris:** Okay. Um and then the last question is, in what ways has migration changed your sense of identity? So how has it changed?

[00:13:26] **Hong:** Um, I believe they have more support, you know. And uh it's not... I feel like everywhere we go, we have the support and people will helping us to fit in and we'll feel belong - that where we live in America, you know.

And special like, if you have - you can go to the hospital or somewhere else that you don't understand [00:14:00], they even have somebody to translate for you. I think that's a really big help you know. Because English [makes a sound] (eeh) - English not real easy to learn and take.... To learn and speak fluently and understand you know. So I think that's a big thing and very helpful. Yes.

[00:14:20] **Madoris:** That's it.

[00:14:21] **Hong:** Oh, thank you.

[00:14:21] **Madoris:** Thank you.